

TRAINING OF CIA CAREER PERSONNEL BY THE DEPARTMENTS  
OF THE ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE

1. The Central Intelligence Agency, like the Military Departments, faces the vital and continuing problem of procuring and training on a career basis, though in far smaller numbers, promising college graduates. Further, it is increasingly apparent that in any Government career, and particularly in the Central Intelligence Agency, the individual must possess those basic disciplines and training which under our present system of education are obtainable only in the military services. This paper proposes for your consideration the setting up of machinery for the CIA to build up over the years a compact corps of career men so imbued and so trained by the three services.

2. Specifically, it is visualized that this corps should spring from two organized actions, both of which require effort by the CIA and the Department of Defense as follows:

a. CIA procure yearly through Service-controlled sources not more than 150 college graduates interested in a CIA career.

b. Upon request by CIA and as practicable, the Military Departments train the men so obtained by CIA, as well as selected small numbers (not to exceed 50 annually) of college graduates with no military commitments, for a two to three year active military duty period in such appropriate courses as Basic Training, Officer Candidate School, Intelligence School, Language School, Public Information School. Upon completion of the prescribed training, which will vary with the individual and may include "field", "troop", or sea duty, trainees return to CIA for career employment, normally with a reserve commission.

The two proposed actions are discussed respectively in Attachments (A) and (B) hereto. Informal working level exploration with the three Services indicates that the actions would be feasible, with the condition that the individual Service will determine what maximum number it can train in any specific course.

3. Certain salient points of these discussions merit emphasis:

a. From the CIA viewpoint an increasing number of career personnel will build upon a foundation of Service-instilled discipline, loyalty and training and will possess a sympathetic, knowledgeable grasp of Defense and security problems.

b. From the Services' viewpoint an increasing number of CIA personnel in top and middle strata will inject into the Agency a healthful leavening of Service knowledge, views and needs.

c. The Department of Defense will have the opportunity of training annually a small number of high-caliber men who otherwise might be relatively unaware of and unsympathetic to the Services' problems and needs.

d. The annual loss of men to the Department of Defense who might otherwise have elected a service career would be extremely small--less than one-half of one per cent of the ROTC graduates of calendar 1951, for example.

e. The active duty commitments of ROTC or NROTC personnel are in no case reduced and may in some instances be extended.

f. The reserve status commitments of ROTC or NROTC personnel are in no case reduced. In fact, the organized reserve groups at CIA can be expected to foster reserve participation beyond legal requirements.

g. The training requirements requested of the Services would impose no change in curricula of currently available courses. Rather, it involves merely participation in certain courses by such small numbers as the Services themselves say will be manageable.